



Dr. Lucy Cranwell Smith FRSNZ



1921-1923

Dr. Lucy Cranwell Smith was a well regarded scientist whose research on fossil pollen and spores is still internationally recognised. Lucy worked as a botanist at the Auckland Museum for 15 years and during her time there she helped set up the natural history galleries. She was also patron of the Auckland Botanical Society, which she founded in 1937.

In 1943 she moved to USA after marrying an archaeologist S. Watson Smith. She lived in America for the rest of her life, working at Harvard University for some time before she became a research affiliate at the University of Arizona.

The turning point of Lucy's career was her paper on vegetation history with climate interpretations, which was jointly written with Lennart Von Post, the founder of pollen analysis, in 1936. She also wrote two books. Throughout her life she received a large number of awards and was recognised for her research and its contribution to the understanding of the evolution of pollen.

Dr Lucy Cranwell Smith has had both living and fossil plants named after her, and she is remembered fondly for her warm personality and love for her research and country.